

# Border closure hurdles Sarbjit Kaur’s return to India

By Our Staff Reporter

LAHORE: The Pakistan authorities on Monday failed to deport Indian national Sarbjit Kaur due to the closure of Wagah-Attari border.

Ms Kaur had come to Pakistan on a pilgrimage visa on Nov 4 with a group of Sikh pilgrims through the Wagah-Attari border to attend the 555th birth anniversary celebrations of Guru Nanak Dev at Nankana Sahib. Her visa was valid until Nov 13.

She was among 1,992 Sikh pilgrims, who visited Pakistan for the religious celebrations and returned to India on Nov 13 but she remained behind which triggered legal action.

On Nov 5, she converted to Islam, married a Pakistani national, Nasir Hussain, and took the name, Noor Hussain.

Earlier, Punjab Minister for Minority Affairs Ramesh Singh Arora told the media that the 48-year-old woman was sent back to India after the completion of legal formalities.

However, the Federal Investigation Agency (FIA) authorities had transported the woman to the Wagah border for deportation.

Punjab Rangers officials on condition of anonymity, told *Dawn* that the process of deportation of Kaur could not be completed due to the closure of the border.

# Man held for ‘desecrating Bible, church’

By Our Correspondent

KASUR: Kot Radha Kishan police, on Monday, arrested a man allegedly for tearing apart pages of the Bible and ransacking a church at Ghanyakay village.

According to the police, they received a phone call on Monday morning that an unidentified man allegedly entered the church at the village and desecrated the Bible by tearing its pages apart.

He also ransacked the church, the police were told by the caller.

Acting on the call, District Police Officer (DPO) Essa Khan, along with a heavy police contingent, rushed to the spot and started investigations into the incident.

The police lodged a criminal case under section 295 (offences related to religion) and 295-A (deliberate and malicious acts intended to outrage religious feelings of any class by insulting its religious feelings and beliefs) of the Pakistan Penal Code (PPC), on a complaint.

Later, in the evening, the police claimed to have arrested the suspect, a resident of Ghanyakay village.

According to a police spokesperson, the suspect had a row with some members of the local Christian community a few days back, and he committed the alleged desecration to “take revenge from his rivals”.

The spokesperson added that the suspect also damaged some Christian religious symbols and church property.

Sources say that the police shifted the suspect to an undisclosed location over security concerns.

The DPO claimed that the situation was under control.



LAHORE: A vendor sells colourful globe lights on his rickshaw on Hall Road. — White Star

# Panel to probe into suicide bid by private university student

Reports suggest parents pressure over subject selection prompts her to jump from building; second incident in less than a month; university suspends on-campus classes

By Asif Chaudhry

LAHORE: A private university constituted a ‘high-level’ inquiry committee comprising senior faculty members and the management officers hours after a D. Pharmacy female student attempted suicide by jumping from the second floor of the varsity building here on Monday.

Fatima (21) was rushed to a local hospital with her both legs fractured badly and injuries to her other body parts.

The police inquiries so far suggested

that she took the extreme step following the pressure of her family to continue her studies in D. Pharmacy while she found it a tough subject.

There were also reports that the student and her family had an heated argument on the same issue on Saturday last when she again raised the matter.

A police official told *Dawn* that Fatima had told one of her friends (F) that she was under immense pressure for studies in D Pharmacy and cited to her a previous incident of a male student of the same varsity who had opted for suicide.

The official said she chose the same place of the university block on Monday from where the boy had jumped and ended his life.

Following protests by varsity students, the management had fired a teacher whom the protesters had accused of admonishing him for low attendance.

However, the official said in the case of Fatima, it transpired that she was a brilliant student and had obtained outstanding marks in mid-term exams.

She had marked her 94 per cent attendance, he said adding that Fatima had earlier tried for admission to the

Punjab University in the same subject but couldn’t qualify.

In her second attempt, she managed to get admission to the University of Lahore.

To a question, the official said the police called her friend (F) on her mobile phone when they found her missed call on Fatima’s cell phone.

She told the police that she had called Fatima soon after she got to know about the suicide attempt of a student.

She further told the police that Fatima had shared with her the matter of her suicide attempt some days back and she called her on Monday fearing that she might have done it today.

Lahore Deputy Inspector General (DIG) Operations Faisal Kamran told this reporter that the student hailed from Narowal, adding that her parents had been asked to come to Lahore.

He said according to the initial information collected so far, the student was talking to someone on the phone around half an hour before the incident, but no further details were available yet.

“She jumped during the call,” he said.

A first information report of the inci-

dent has not been filed so far. The DIG said it was up to the girl’s parents whether they wanted to file a complaint.

Meanwhile, the university decided to suspend its on-campus classes.

A notice issued by the registrar office said: “It is hereby notified for the information of all concerned that, in order to secure the campus buildings and ensure the safety and well-being of students, all on-campus teaching activities shall remain suspended.

“Accordingly, all classes scheduled today are called off and all academic activities will be shifted to online mode from Tuesday (Jan 6) until further orders,” it added.

DIG Kamran told *Dawn* that police had talked to the university administration, which had decided to suspend on-campus classes.

He said the administration had conveyed to the police that they were also considering installing fences on every floor or deploying staff to ensure safety.

Around three weeks back, a 22-year-old Pharm-D student died after jumping from the fourth floor of the university building on Dec 19.

# Tough days ahead for PTI supporters as well

Qawwal gets pre-arrest bail for singing a song linked to party leader; 7 wedding guests detained for raising slogans for Imran

By Wajih Ahmad Sheikh & Waseem Ashraf Butt

LAHORE/GUJRAT: : Two incidents in Lahore and Gujranwala on Sunday night suggest tough days are ahead even for PTI supporters in Punjab.

A sessions court on Monday granted pre-arrest bail to the qawwal after he was booked in a case for performing a song associated with ex-premier Imran Khan during a government-sponsored cultural event.

In the first information report (FIR), the complainant, Shalimar Gardens in-

charge Zameerul Hasan, alleged that qawwal Faraz Amjad Khan gave the event a “political colour” as he sung “Qaidi No. 804” in reference to former prime minister Imran Khan. Additional District and Sessions Judge Shazaib Dar took up the bail application filed by the artist, who appeared before the court along with his lawyer.

Faraz’s counsel submitted that the petitioner had no affiliation with any political party and that he performed the song at the request of participants in the cultural programme.

He requested the court to grant pre-arrest bail to the singer as he wanted to join the investigation to “prove his innocence”.

After preliminary arguments, the judge allowed the bail till Jan 13 and sought the case record from the police.

Baghbanpura police registered an FIR on Sunday night against Faraz for performing the song ‘Nak Da Koka 2 Murshid’ at the “non-political” programme organised by the Walled City of

Lahore Authority on Jan 3.

According to the complainant, the qawwal and his band members “deliberately sang an inciting political song without permission.”

The administration then asked the singer to stop, which sparked public unrest and incitement, posing a risk to law and order.

The case invoked Sections 34 (acts done by several persons in furtherance of common intention), 109 (punishment of abetment), 153-A (promoting enmity between different groups), 504 (intentional insult with intent to provoke a breach of the peace), and 505 (1b) (statements conducing to public mischief) of the Pakistan Penal Code.

In the other incident, the Gujranwala district administration detained seven supporters of Pakistan Tehreek-i-Insaf after they chanted slogans carrying pictures of jailed party founder Imran Khan at a wedding function near Rahwali Cantonment.

Gujranwala Deputy Commissioner

Naveed Ahmed, on the basis of a report from the Gujranwala police, issued the detention orders of seven PTI supporters under section 03 of the maintenance of public order (MPO) for the period of 14 days from January 03.

Earlier the local police had arrested the PTI supporters including Istikhar Ahmed of Talwandi Khajoor Wali, Tariq Mehmood of Lambawali, Kareem Bhinder of Rahwali, Zahid of Shareefpura, Imran Beig of Salamat Pura, Zeeshan of Kashmirpura and Ayaz of Tarragari. They were later sent to the Gujranwala district jail.

These detained people had chanted slogans in favour of Imran Khan while carrying his posters at the stage of a wedding ceremony of Hassan Malik in a banquet hall near Rahwali.

The local police reported to the administration that these PTI supporters had planned to stage a protest demonstration by blocking the main GT road in favour of the party leader.



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